

Working for Central Washington

Project Highlights - FY 2003 -

This region includes Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties.

(For Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties, please see: <http://murray.senate.gov/region-northcentral>)

ECONOMY

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/economy>

Yakima Ways to Work Program (\$500,000)

Ways to Work is a national program of nonprofit human service organization serving over a million people. Ways to Work, through these family service agencies, partners with community banks to provide small loans of up to \$3,000 for automobile purchase or repair to help low-income families access jobs, schools and day care facilities. This funding will help establish a Ways to Work program for the Yakima Valley, which will assist many low-income individuals, especially single mothers, get to and from work, schools and day care facilities.

Horizons, Inc. UNITE Initiative, Sunnyside (\$225,000)

Horizons will use the funding to purchase computer equipment at the facility housing the Up-Skill Network and Information Technology Enterprises (UNITE) initiative. The funding package for the facility itself is already in place. UNITE will provide one-stop technology-based education for low-income and underserved rural Americans, including people moving from welfare to work, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, at-risk youth, dislocated workers, and individuals with disabilities. Among other services, UNITE will expand free public access to computers and information technology resources through distance learning and a computer loan program.

Enterprise for Progress in the Community, Yakima (\$150,000)

These funds will furnish six classrooms and a playground at a new community child development center to be constructed in 2003 at the EPIC Place campus in Yakima. This center will serve the unmet early childhood needs of the local community and the employees of the agencies who are co-locating on one campus to improve access to social and health services in the Yakima Valley. Additionally, the local neighborhood will utilize twenty additional Head Start slots that will be placed in the center by EPIC.

Rural Community Assessments (\$90,000)

The Washington State Rural Development Council will use the funding to help rural communities assess strengths and weaknesses, develop strategies to meet their economic, community, and human service goals, and link them to resources to build on and implement local plans. The Town of Quincy, Washington and the surrounding region recently went through the community assessment process. It was a huge success and this funding will help the council to reach out to many more rural communities.

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AGRICULTURE

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/agriculture>

Protecting Washington State Tree Fruit from Viruses (\$250,000)

The NRSP-5 facility at Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture and Extension Center in Prosser, Washington is responsible for obtaining and distributing virus-free deciduous tree fruit material to farmers. Rapid foreign and domestic exchange of varieties is essential for the continued economic vitality of the U.S. tree fruit and nursery industries. The facility will use the funding to implement new technologies for more rapid and dependable methods of pathogen detection and to provide secure production and maintenance of virus-free fruit tree cultivars.

Protecting and Enhancing Washington's Wine Industry (\$850,000)

The omnibus appropriations bill includes an \$850,000 increase for viticulture research in the Pacific Northwest. The increase includes \$150,000 to develop a clean "motherblock" for the Washington wine industry. As the industry grows, it needs a disease and virus-free "motherblock" of plant material. The industry has grown so rapidly that there are growing concerns that farmers are planting grapevine that may contain viruses that could devastate the industry. One of the strengths of our industry is that our rootstock is clean. The research dollars secured will help to build a new, clean rootstock for distribution to existing and new growers. This research will take place at Prosser. The bill also includes \$400,000 for the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research for viticulture research. \$200,000 will go directly for research at the center. The other \$200,000 will be awarded competitively for collaborative research between WSU, Oregon State University and the University of Idaho.

Yakima River Additional Water Storage (\$1 million)

The funds and new authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation are to study the potential of creating new water storage in the Yakima River basin. The study will explore the potential of the Black Rock reservoir proposal.

Rural and Farmworker Housing Trust, Statewide Initiative (\$200,000)

The housing trust will use the funding to kickstart its operations. The new organization will raise funding to create affordable housing for farmworkers in Washington State. RAFHT is the result of four years of work between Senator Murray, the Latino community, farmers, and affordable housing developers. Senator Murray has joined with leaders in these communities to address Washington State's tremendous need for safe and affordable farmworker housing. RAFHT's goal will be to raise the tens of millions of dollars needed to build new -- and rehabilitate existing -- farmworker housing throughout the state.

Animal Research (\$900,000)

This funding will support initiatives at WSU to make sure that livestock producers have disease-free animals and to conduct research on animal diseases to ensure that our agriculture industry is prepared for a possible future attack on the U.S. food supply.

Western Wheat Quality Lab (\$75,000 increase in FY 2003)

Senator Murray secured a \$75,000 increase in funding for the WWQL in Pullman. This facility conducts research to ensure that Washington's wheat farmers are growing a crop for which there

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is an overseas market. Wheat is Washington's number one agricultural export, bringing \$878 million into our state.

TRANSPORTATION

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/transportation>

Pangborn Memorial Airport - Mark 20A Instrument Landing System (\$2 million)

This airport is in Wenatchee, Washington. The funding will support an advanced navigational system to improve the airport's air traffic control system.

Omak Airport - Transponder Landing System (\$2 million)

This funding will help bring a transponder landing system to Omak Airport to help improve air traffic control and safety. Sen. Murray helped to add funding for this priority during conference.

Richland Airport - Transponder Landing System (\$2 million)

This funding will help bring a transponder landing system to Richland Airport to help improve air traffic control and safety. Sen. Murray helped to add funding for this priority during conference.

City of Union Gap, Valley Mall Boulevard (\$1.5 million)

The increased frequency of BNSF trains through the City of Union Gap has created traffic safety issues, delays in police and fire emergency vehicle response, air pollution and noise from whistle blowing. This funding will support the construction of a grade separation.

Yakima – Downtown Grade Separations (\$3.5 million)

The increased frequency of BNSF trains through downtown Yakima has created traffic safety issues, delays in police and fire emergency vehicle response, air pollution and noise from whistle blowing. This funding will support the construction of grade separated crossings in downtown Yakima. The grade separation project will cover at least two intersections.

City of Sunnyside, South First Street Reconstruction Project (\$1.5 million)

This project is a critical part of the City of Sunnyside's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. The funding will assist in expanding the city's major arterial roadway serving the south part of the community, which will enhance safety and improve use.

Signal Peak Road on the Yakima Reservation (\$4.15 million)

This funding will support roadway repairs for Signal Peak Road. This road is the primary route for the Yakima Nation to transport timber to local mills. This road also allows access to a tribal summer youth camp.

Grant Transit - Buses (\$432,000)

This funding will allow the Grant Transit Authority to replace two 30-foot buses with new buses that will improve safety and reduce emissions.

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Tri Cities - Advanced Traffic Management System (\$500,000)

This earmark was in the House bill. Murray helped protect the funding during conference.

ENVIRONMENT

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/environment>

Hanford Cleanup (\$2 billion in FY 2003)

This year, Senator Murray continued her work to ensure the federal government meets its responsibility to cleanup the Hanford nuclear facility site in the Tri-Cities. In his FY 2003 budget, the President proposed cutting Hanford funding by \$300 million. Murray, as the co-chair of the Senate Nuclear Clean-Up Caucus, worked with her colleagues to stop the President's cuts and budget maneuvering. With Senator Murray's help, the Senate added \$433 million to the President's budget for Hanford. Even with the Senate shifting to Republican Control in January 2003, Murray was still able to maintain her funding increase for Hanford. The funding Murray helped secure supports a waste treatment plant and cleanup efforts along the Columbia River.

Yakima River Forrest (\$1 million)

This funding is for Yakima River Forest Legacy and Acquisition.

HAMMER (\$5.7 million)

Senator Murray has inserted language directing the Department of Energy to continue to fund the HAMMER facility. DOE had cut the program in its fiscal year 2003 budget request.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (\$1.4 million)

These funds will support volunteer salmon enhancement programs.

Parker Water System (\$450,000)

The town of Parker is working with Yakima County and Yakima Nation to provide clean drinking water to about 100 homes in the area with contaminated wells. Senator Murray supported this in Conference.

Klickitat County PUD New Sewage Treatment Plant (\$1,485,000)

This funding will allow the PUD to replace a 46-year old treatment plant while: maintaining affordable sewer rates for town residents, protecting the Klickitat Wild and Scenic River, and providing a vital part of the infrastructure needed for economic development. Without this funding, residents' sewer rates will triple to approximately \$95 per month. Klickitat County has the highest unemployment rate in the state at 17.1 percent unemployment, and many residents have low incomes.

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SECURITY

See also: http://murray.senate.gov/homeland_security and <http://murray.senate.gov/justice> and

Defense Department Appropriations (\$3 million)

The Tri-Cities will receive these funds in the Defense Department Appropriations bill.

National Counter-Drug Center (\$1 million)

HAMMER will receive funds to continue the counter-drug program in Richland.

New Police Officers for Central Washington

Since 1993, Senator Murray's support of the COPS program has put more than 1,800 new police officers on Washington streets, including:

CENTRAL REGION	175.4 *	\$8,536,342
Benton County	63	\$3,262,926
Franklin County	12.3	\$637,342
Grant County	11.2	\$879,276
Kittitas County	32.7	\$3,143,298
Klickitat County	8.5	\$613,500
Yakima County	47.7	\$7,535,154

* Note: Decimals reflect that some county police departments only requested a portion of a full-time officer's salary.

Senator Murray has championed the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. She voted for the law that created it in 1993, and every year she has worked to fund this effort to put new police officers on the streets of these communities where they work closely with residents. <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>

RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/telecom>

High-Speed Internet Access to Rural Communities

Sen. Murray wrote and introduced the *Rural Telecommunications Act*. This legislation would provide grants to encourage community telecommunications planning in rural and underserved areas. If adopted, Congress would provide up to \$3 million a year in planning grants to help local and tribal governments, non-profits, public utilities, cooperatives and other public groups develop effective, targeted plans to bring high-speed internet access to their areas. It was passed in the Senate as part of the Farm Bill, but was dropped in Conference. Sen. Murray will continue to fight for it.

VETERANS

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Veteran's Health Care

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/veterans>

During the 107th Congress, Senator Murray continued her work to improve access to health care for Washington's veterans, especially for those in the most under-served parts of our state. Veterans across North Central and Northwest Washington often must travel extremely long distances to consult a physician for basic health care. In 2002, Senator Murray wrote legislation to create a pilot program to provide basic medical services to veterans in Whatcom, Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Kittitas counties. Murray's legislation would supply trained medical staff to veterans on a weekly basis, offering basic health care, diagnostic services, and needed referrals to appropriate medical facilities. Murray's amendment passed the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in June 2002, however, it was dropped during the House-Senate Conference. Murray will try again this year.